

UFO BASE IN NSW?

The sheer number of UFO sightings over the Blue Mountains in New South Wales has led many to believe in the possibility of an underground UFO base!

Extracted from the forthcoming book

Mysterious Australia

by Rex Gilroy

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Over recent years campers far out in the Burragorang Valley to the south of Katoomba beyond the Warragamba Dam backwaters, have been woken late at night by the grinding of apparent subterranean machinery throbbing away.

In that same region during the 1980s, disappearances of lone campers have taken place and mysterious circular 'UFO ring' burn-marks have been discovered by others. It is a region where soldiers have vanished, where eerie glows have been claimed seen at night, weird high-pitched humming sounds heard, and mystery flying craft seen to vanish into the valley depths. These events persist into the 1990s.

Indeed, there have been some very unusual happenings on the Blue Mountains over recent years and these date back at least to the early 1950s and they are yet to be given a proper explanation by the authorities concerned. Yet it is likely that no explanation, no matter how guarded, can be offered without it becoming obvious to most people that we are not alone in this universe.

The unusual happenings of which I speak are the approximate 1,000 or so reports of Unidentified Flying Objects that have been seen over and on the Blue Mountains west of Sydney in the last several years or so.

The Jameison Valley and its surrounding environs has been the scene of many spectacular UFO events. Nonetheless, there is something about the whole affair which becomes all the more intriguing when one meets with the wall of silence about Jameison Valley UFOs, set up by official circles.

Some mysterious happenings have yet to be given a full explanation, such as the repeated sightings of UFOs that seem to just appear as if out of nowhere in the almost impenetrable forest regions to the south of Mount Solitary and beyond the backwaters of Warragamba Dam. Hikers who have actually penetrated the region and who, while camping at night, have claimed later to have heard the throbbing of some sort of machinery coming from below the ground.

The implications of this, as far as ufologists are concerned, is that there exists in the farthest reaches of the valley, a secret base inhabited by extraterrestrials.

For many years there have been reports of mysterious objects or lights seen in the sky over the Jameison Valley from Kings Tableland, a favourite spot for UFO watchers. Many of these reports have been made at night.

The most interesting point is that most of these objects have been seen to hover over the DGA (now DoT—Department of Transport) towers that stand on the edge of the valley on the road to Queen Victoria Hospital. More than once, caretakers at the DoT station have gone outdoors at night and found some strange craft hovering above them.

One night during 1971 a young couple in a car while driving along the Kings Tableland road towards Wentworth Falls suddenly found themselves being followed by a saucer-shaped craft emitting a strange green glow. Emitting a humming noise the mystery object, which they estimated to be about 25 ft (8.3 m) across, flew over their vehicle, and flying swiftly ahead of them a mere 30 ft (10 m) above the ground, suddenly rose and vanished above them.

Later it was revealed that numerous people on the other side of the valley along Cliff Drive, Katoomba, had observed the green glowing object in the distance.

Not only have people been spotting UFOs above the Jameison Valley, residents out on Kings Tableland road have reported seeing strange craft flying low over the valley floor as if coming in for a landing. They have observed the objects to disappear to the south of the Jameison Valley farms on the north side of the Warragamba Dam backwaters, as if having landed somewhere to the south of the backwaters in the heart of the Burragorang region.

During 1971 a hiker, Mr Glenn Weston, penetrated some of this inaccessible terrain. One night while camping in a remote area to the south of the Warragamba Dam backwaters he was woken from his sleep by a loud humming noise.

Getting to his feet he started off, torch in hand, into the bush in the direction of the strange sound hoping to find out the cause. He soon became aware that ahead of him the scrub was lit up with a glowing white light. Ahead of him there appeared to be a clearing.

As he approached the clearing, he could see through the trees that the glow was coming from some strange structure which he thought to be somewhat egg-shaped. Dark man-like figures appeared to be moving hastily about the craft.

Mr Weston switched off his torch and, feeling a little uneasy, remained hidden among the trees for a moment, wondering whether to approach the figures to enquire what was going on. As he stood there among the trees, the figures disappeared into the object and the glow suddenly faded, the mysterious dark shape rose into the air, its loud humming noise now silent.

Mr Weston returned rather hastily to his camp, and unable to sleep after what he had witnessed, he remained awake until morning when he packed his haversack and wasted no time in leaving the valley.

Eerie happenings continue to occur in that region. In 1990 a group of high school boys claimed they were 'buzzed' by a silver, spherical ball-like object from which small spike-like shafts projected. The sphere, they said, was about 40 cm in width and made erratic fast movements above them, then hovered about 3 m above the track ahead of them, before shooting off to vanish over the trees and gullies beyond. Was the strange sphere some kind of remote-controlled observer? In any case, the boys abandoned their camping trip then and there.

In that same area back in the spring of 1977, a group of seven young men while on a camping trip were exploring the bushland. They made their camp for the night on that first afternoon of their excursion. All seemed well, that is until after they had bedded down.

Coming as they said, as if from out of the bowels of the Earth beneath them, the group heard a loud throbbing and grinding noise which began to grow louder by the minute.

As the sound increased, the ground itself began to vibrate. By this time all of the group had gotten to their feet, grabbing torches and trying to see what was going on about them. A thorough search of the region in the dark failed to find the cause of the disturbance, and although the vibrations decreased somewhat the group got little sleep from the incessant throbbing that continued on well into the night.

The next day a further search failed to find the cause of the mysterious sounds and the group were glad to leave the area.

Unknown to these campers, or the high school student campers, it was in this very same area that three soldiers vanished without trace back in 1951. It is also in this area that many UFOs have been seen from the clifftops beyond, to descend as if to land thereabouts.

If sounds coming from beneath the Earth in the Burrigorang region have mystified people, then so too have the lights of the 'phantom city'.

This phenomenon has been witnessed by numerous people including ufologists who have happened to be out on the far end of Kings Tableland late at night. A mass of strange lights, resembling a town lit up at night, has been observed to appear as if out of nowhere, and vanish again before morning.

The 'phantom city' appears to be in the same area as the throbbing sounds heard late at night by the campers, and where the

mystery craft have been seen to disappear among the scrubland.

It would appear, therefore, that no other explanation would seem possible than that a secret base of some sort, established for some years now, exists south of the Jameison Valley, and from which extraterrestrials are carrying out some mysterious operation—but then, I leave these discussions to my readers.

North of the backwaters of Warragamba Dam in Kedumba Valley which stands behind the Jameison Valley farms, is a deeply wooded region interspersed with the rubble of countless creek beds active only when fed by heavy rains from above the valley.

It was hereabouts in 1970 that a camper, Rod Paker, entered the area on horseback. He had been asked to keep an eye out for a few head of cattle that had gone missing in the area.

He found instead a circular burnt-out patch of timber and the remains of what appeared to be some heavy object that had left a circular depression in the earth for about 10 m around. There was also a strange smell about the place which Rod could not identify.

Whatever it was, he could see that some unknown large-heavy object had rested there only hours before, so heavy in fact that it had crushed over large gum trees with trunks between 20 and 30 cm thickness or more. No trace of the missing head of stock was found but for numerous hoofprints about the area of the circular depression.

Later Rod contacted the RAAF base at Richmond, north of Penrith, and reported his eerie discovery. The voice at the other end had the perfect solution to the mystery.

"About this time of year, large flocks of migrating ducks frequent the Warragamba region and rest at night in swamps where they congregate in large numbers, leaving circular depressions in the crushed reeds when they fly off. So obviously Mr Paker, what you found was nothing more than a depression left by migrating ducks."

"Yes," replied Rod, "Ninety ton ducks!" and hung up the phone.

Tales persist among the residents of Warragamba township of the numerous objects that have been either seen or heard to fly low over the town at night, often emitting strange glowing lights and heading in the direction of the region south of the now-flooded Burrigorang Valley. These stories date back to the early 1950s when there occurred a couple of mysterious happenings which are still discussed by old identities of the area.

Early in 1953, following several sightings of strange flying craft in the area, a hiker who happened to penetrate the area of the supposed landings of these objects, saw from a distance and from the shelter of scrub a group of several man-sized forms clothed in what today could be said to have resembled space suits.

The mystery beings appeared to be searching the ground with strange metal devices, apparently collecting soil and rock samples.

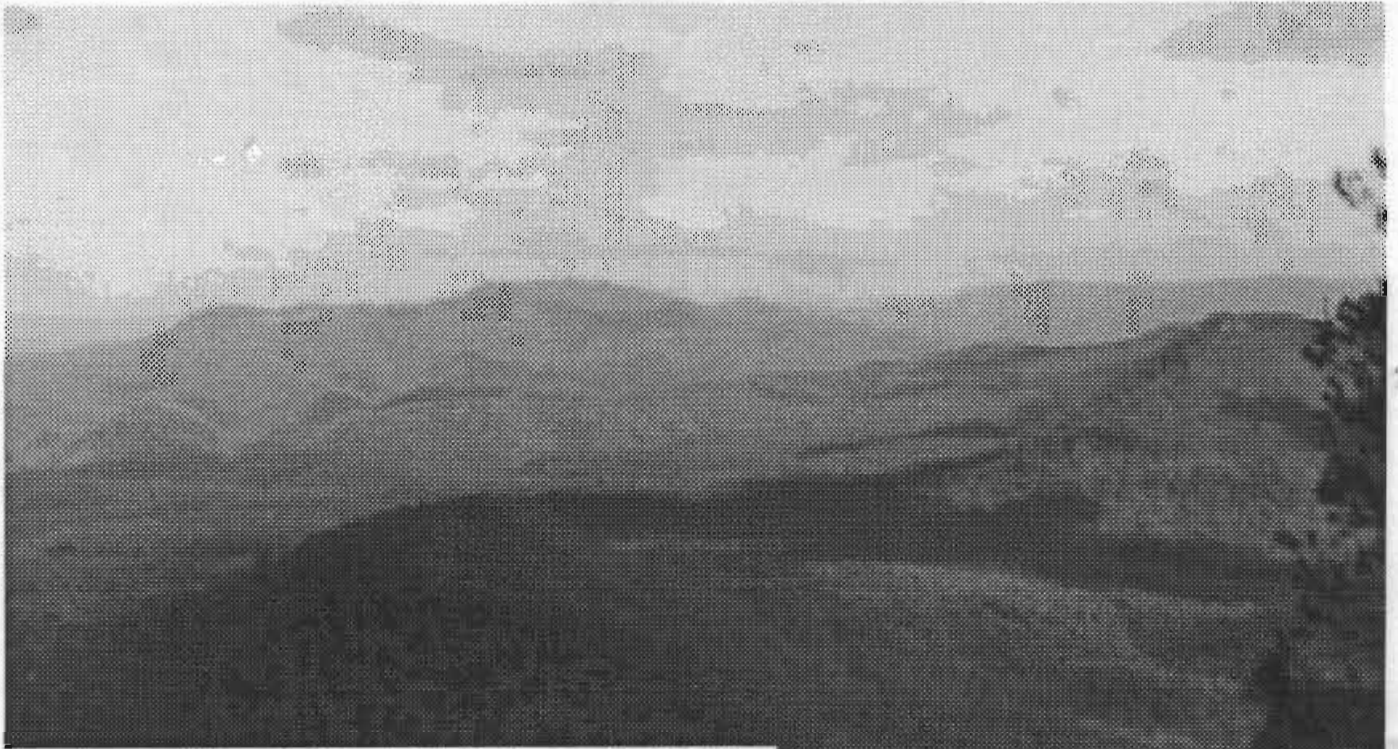
This incident was reported to locals by the hiker when he returned to Warragamba township from his trip.

The incident in turn attracted the attention of three young soldiers, all experienced bushmen, and all with a budding interest in the then new field of UFO research.

Setting off from Warragamba, they attempted to follow the approximate route taken by the hiker. It is believed they penetrated several kilometres inland in the approximate area of the sighting of the strange figures.

However, it was beyond a certain point that all trace of them became lost, and despite searches that were sent out for them, no trace of the three soldiers was ever found again.

Coming as they said, as if from out of the bowels of the Earth beneath them, the group heard a loud throbbing and grinding noise which began to grow louder by the minute.



The vast Burratorang Valley, south of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales.

Furthermore, all further mention of their mystery fate was soon lost in the wall of official silence that descended on the whole issue.

The Burratorang-Kedumba valleys are not by any means the only places where mysterious late-night, or even daytime, goings-on have been happening.

Tourists looking out over the Grose Valley near Blackheath have reported having seen strange lights which have appeared to land in the valley or else have hovered over the forests to rise vertically into the sky.

Murphy's Glen in the Blue Mountains National Park has been the scene of some unusual happenings. One night in 1977 a bush-walker, Steve Burrows, was camping in the glen when he observed mysterious lights flying overhead to descend among the trees of nearby forest. However, from a variety of reports it would appear that many of these lights have been seen coming from the region of Jameison Valley, and therefore we may suppose that they originate from the alleged secret base in the Burratorang.

On Thursday 30th July 1970, a Mr Phillips was standing on a lookout above Leura Cascades which overlooks the Jameison Valley, when directly ahead of him there suddenly appeared a strange object of a brilliant, shining silver colour from behind Mount Solitary.

The time was 5.30 pm with a clear sky. The object, which was about 10 km away across the valley, was judged by Mr Phillips to be 4 or 5 degrees east of due south and about the same angle above the horizon. The object emitted no noise. It was quite large, as big as a large aircraft, and appeared to Mr Phillips to be without any navigation lights whatever.

The strange craft was shaped like a ball. The ball was a sphere, the top being joined to a cylinder; the conical section between them appeared to follow an exponential curve. This strange object, after remaining motionless for half a minute after its appearance, suddenly moved off at a terrific speed, then, soaring upwards into the sky, disappeared from sight.

About the same time that Mr Phillips saw his UFO, another and quite spectacular UFO event took place in Katoomba which revived old memories of the occurrences thereabouts of the early

1950s.

Dozens of people who happened to be standing outside their homes over a wide area between Leura to the east and Blackheath towards the west several kilometres away, were witnesses to a brilliant orange-yellow glowing object which, coming from the south—that is from the Burratorang-Kedumba Valley area—sailed across the sky so low that, as it neared the Great Western Highway near Katoomba hospital, it came within a mere 200 feet of the ground. So brilliant was the glow from this object that the whole district seemed lit up by it.

The object was too bright for anyone to detect its shape. It was travelling slowly across the area and within a few minutes people at Blackheath saw it before the object gradually gained height, disappearing northward.

The official RAAF report? You'll never guess. "The planet Venus was very brilliant that night!"

Another strange UFO, although not as brilliant as that just mentioned, passed over Katoomba one night in 1970 going from north to south, and descending slowly into the Jameison Valley. The object appeared to 'coast' over the Jameison Valley farms until it appeared to vanish somewhere to the south.

The object which was seen by some of the farm-hands was also seen by a good many Katoomba residents. It gave out a reddish light which emitted a small amount of glow over the houses as it began to descend towards the valley, and passed overhead a mere 30 m above the houses just before entering the Jameison Valley.

UFOs are nothing new to the Blue Mountains. Large numbers of reported sightings of mysterious objects have been recorded hereabouts for many years, and I have it on good authority that such goings-on have been occurring in the area for generations.

The presence of UFOs on the Blue Mountains did not reach the ears of the press until 1953 when there was a spectacular event over the skies of Katoomba during the May holidays of that year.

For a period of over a week a mysterious greenish-reddish glowing object hovered over the night skies of Katoomba, making often aeronautical feats and attaining such speeds that were impossible for known aircraft. The object, which was seen by hundreds

of people particularly sightseers who flocked to Echo Point Lookout to view the craft as it moved about over the Jameison Valley, disappeared as mysteriously as it had appeared. The events of those 1953 May holidays are still talked about by old residents.

However, it is not the only spectacular event of its kind to have occurred on the Blue Mountains by any means.

During 1952 Mrs H. McLean of Oatley, south of Sydney, was sitting in her backyard one afternoon at 2.30 pm when she saw a spinning disc-shaped object flying at terrific speed across the sky from east to west. Within minutes, residents over a wide area of the Blue Mountains were reporting having sighted what must have been the same object to police and radio stations.

Another but less publicised event, and one which must have been witnessed by many other residents of the area, occurred near Katoomba in 1955 when a bright green object emitting an orange-coloured flame, passed over the district from west to east at a height of about 10,000

feet, making a roaring sound very much like that of a diesel locomotive. The object, which was too high to make any detailed description, was seen by Carl Knox and his brother Leonard as it soared over their Katoomba home. Later that day they were among hundreds of people who heard over Sydney radio that a mysterious object had crashed into the sea off Sydney Harbour.

Then again in 1957 people once more flocked to Echo Point at Katoomba for a second UFO event.

My old friend, the late Alderman Frank Walford of the Blue Mountains City Council, was among the hundreds of other people who observed what must be agreed was a saucer-shaped object. It re-appeared over Katoomba and the Jameison Valley on two successive nights.

The object which appeared to have lights flashing on and off, made manoeuvres that were impossible for any Earth-based aircraft. The local police were called in and some of the police officers were among the many eyewitnesses.

Then on the third night an entirely different object appeared in the skies over Katoomba, this time as a clearly defined cigar-shaped craft which floated over Mount Solitary in the centre of the Jameison Valley.

The RAAF was called in to investigate the matter. And although dozens of people including Alderman Frank Walford were able to verify that the object at times flew low over the Jameison Valley (and over Katoomba township for that matter), the official RAAF explanation was that the saucer and cigar-shaped objects were the star Canopus!

One dark cloudy September night in 1969 Mr Robert Hinton and his mother were standing in the backyard of their home, situated near the Old Bathurst Road, Katoomba, and overlooking the (then) Catalina racing car track. Directly ahead of them, and hovering high above the centre of the track, they sighted a large oval

saucer-shaped craft among the clouds.

The object emitted three lights—one green and two red—from beneath it, and a white light shone from windows that appeared to surround the craft. It remained hovering for a minute and then began moving off slowly in a north-easterly direction. The Hintons judged the approximate speed of the craft at about 35 mph.

If incidents such as these were not enough to convince even the most sceptical Australian, then the Eddellbuttel piggery incident certainly must have.

This well-known piggery situated along the Great Western Highway and just west of the famous Explorers Tree landmark, stands nearby the cliffs overlooking the Megalong Valley.

The Eddellbuttel incident began one dark night in 1972. Mrs Eddellbuttel was washing dishes in the kitchen sink about 8 pm. Chancing to glance through the window toward the south-west,

she saw an orange light moving above the trees to descend among them to the west of the house behind some pig sheds.

Summoning her brother and his wife who happened to be staying with her, Mrs Eddellbuttel pointed out to them through the window the eerie glow a couple of hundred yards beyond the house. Thinking the glow to be from the lamps of spotlight shooters, they soon fetched her husband Bernard who had been taking a bath at the time.

At this stage the

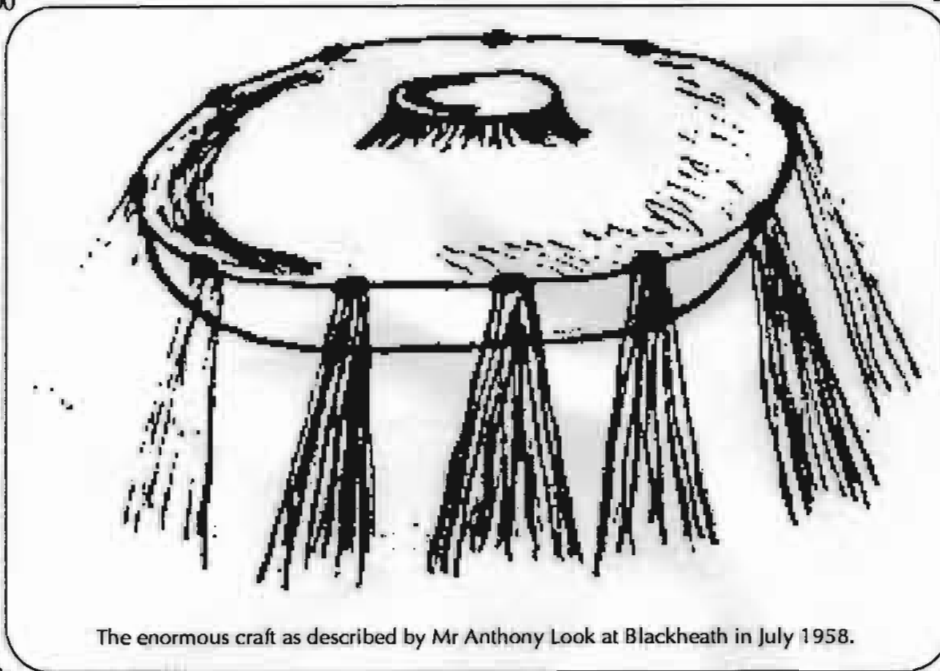
brother-in-law had left the house, intending to investigate the strange glow. Walking up past the pig sheds, he moved towards the trees. It was then that he got the shock of his life when he saw what was the origin of the strange glow.

There amid the trees was a disc-shaped craft of considerable size emitting the orange glow. The light was so bright that it lit up the whole surrounding area. Later it would be revealed that many motorists passing along the nearby Great Western Highway had also observed the glow in the distance.

The craft had lights surrounding it with one central light in the centre of its dome. It was this dome light which emitted the blinding glow. Then, as if aware that it was being watched, the glow faded rapidly away, leaving the mysterious craft almost invisible in the darkness among the trees.

By this time, realising what he might be looking at, the brother-in-law became seized with panic and ran as fast as he could from the craft until he reached the house. Perhaps equally panic-stricken, the family locked and bolted every door and fastened every window in the house, someone having enough presence of mind to phone the local police.

All this time the large number of pigs kept at the Eddellbuttel farm, usually noisy in any disturbance like the dogs, had remained deadily silent.



The enormous craft as described by Mr Anthony Look at Blackheath in July 1958.

At first, the police may have thought the phone call a joke and taken no notice of it. However, after repeated calls, two officers were sent to the farm to investigate the matter.

Within minutes the two constables arrived in a paddy wagon. Driving up towards the pig sheds they alighted, hoping to see the object for themselves, but found nothing—the mysterious craft had vanished as silently as it had come.

There the matter might have rested but it did not. The Eddellbuttel UFO report made the media and brought forth numerous other eyewitnesses who had seen the same glowing object pass over Katoomba that night.

One of these eyewitnesses was a farmer in the Megalong Valley directly below the cliffs beyond which the Eddellbuttel farm stands. The farmer had been standing outside his house when, from over the cliffs, he detected a large, approximately 30 ft (10 m) wide, dark object silently descending slowly into the valley to land in a deserted field some distance from the farmhouse.

There it remained for a full 10 minutes as the farmer watched. Then, silently as before, the mystery object rose into the air, rapidly gained speed and flew off into the darkness.

The impression given by these events could imply that something had been malfunctioning in the craft and its occupants, for it certainly was operated by some intelligence, had landed first at the Eddellbuttels', and then in the valley below to carry out emergency repairs.

Whatever it was, the Eddellbuttel UFO was certainly not some errant Earth-based craft. One explanation which failed to hold water was that the object had been a malfunctioning helicopter whose crew had landed to repair. Beyond this the RAAF could offer no other convincing explanation.

1973 was also the year that I received the belated disclosure of Mr Anthony Look who, in the winter of 1958 at Blackheath, experienced one of the most spectacular sightings ever witnessed on the Blue Mountains.

Mr Look, while a workman of the Blue Mountains City Council, was walking into the Blackheath Council depot one July 1958 morning at 6.30 am. At that time of morning in winter, the sky was still dark although dawn was about to break. Mr Look was joined by several other workmates. As they stood there talking in the yard of the depot, Mr Look happened to glance up at the sky.

There, directly above the depot and at least 10,000 feet above the ground, was what appeared to be an enormous circular craft. At this stage the other workmen also looked up as Mr Look drew their attention to the strange object.

As the workmen were all early arrivals at the depot there were no other witnesses to the strange visitor. Because the object remained stationary in the sky above, Mr Look and his mates were able to make a detailed description of the massive mystery craft.

A ruler was produced and held up at arm's length to make a

rough estimate of the object's size. It measured 130 cm in width, which implies the craft must have been of considerable size.

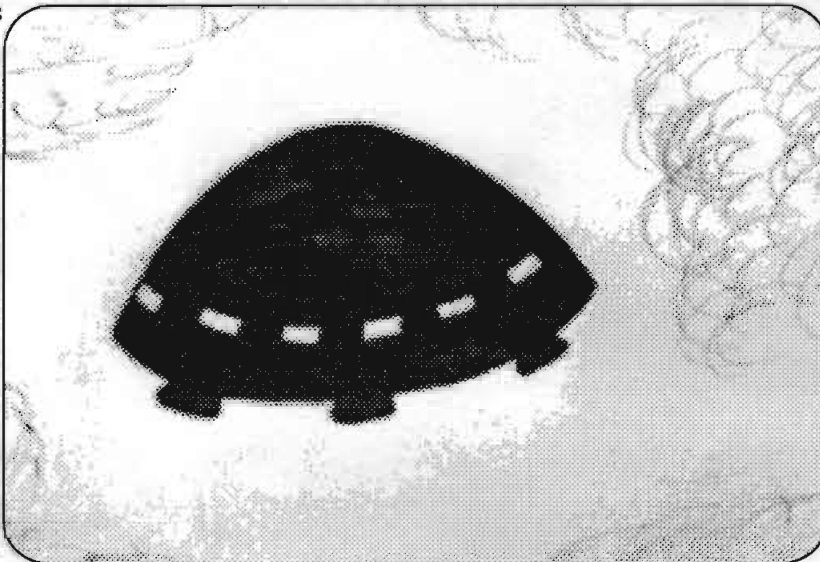
The craft now began emitting a blinding white light which appeared to come from a row of lights arranged around the side of the craft, and Mr Look was able to count at least 10 of these. The lights projected a glow which shone directly down within 50 ft (16.2 m) of the council yard.

In fact, the glow from the craft appeared to light up the surrounding town area. After spending a full 10 minutes hovering above the startled workmen, the craft suddenly rose upwards at a phenomenal speed to disappear into the clouds.

Following the expected ridicule that their story received from

the rest of the workmen who arrived later, Mr Look and his mates agreed to talk no more of what they had seen. The incident might have been lost had not Mr Look broken his silence (his mates by now all deceased) in 1973 to tell me the story.

One night in 1972, two police officers were driving along the Great Western Highway coming from Wentworth Falls and heading in the direction of Lawson. As they proceeded down Bodington Hill, they sighted in the starry sky ahead of them a bright, silvery glowing starlike object approaching Earth



Drawing of the UFO described, seen by Mr Robert Hinton over Katoomba in 1969.

in their direction, so they slowed down.

The object passed over their vehicle, lighting up the surrounding area as it did so. No other cars were in sight as the constables, perhaps sensing that what they had seen was no earthly craft, picked up speed and headed off down the road.

However, they soon became aware that the mysterious glow was still with them, keeping pace with their vehicle which it did for some distance. The officers could detect a humming sound above them, then the glow faded as the mysterious object gave up the pursuit.

By now other cars appeared on the highway as the officers stopped their car and got out to try and get a better look at whatever the strange object was. But whatever it was, it had vanished from sight. The two policemen decided never to discuss their experience for fear of the possible ridicule their story might bring.

These mysterious craft are certainly emanating from something, somewhere out there in the almost inaccessible reaches of the Kedumba Burragarang region as ufologists will surely agree. To anyone who has ever flown over or attempted to explore on foot these rugged, rock-strewn forested valleys of the Blue Mountains, it will become quite obvious that anything at all could survive thereabouts quite unknown to civilisation, and that includes possible extraterrestrial colonists too. ∞

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